



6U RULES

2010 SEASON

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OFFICIAL SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES – 6U

The 6U Division of the Mountain View-Los Altos Girls Softball League is an introductory level of play equivalent to “Mini-Sox” or “T-ball” in other leagues. The rules are greatly simplified to encourage all to play and participate in the game.

FIELD

The 6U field consists of a grass infield with painted foul lines and 50-foot baselines. Bases are flat "throw down" bases that minimize the possibility of tripping. A "fair ball" arc with a radius of ten feet is painted with home plate being the center of the arc.

REGULATION GAME

Games are about one hour — don't start a new inning after 55 minutes.

ALL GIRLS PLAY ON DEFENSE EACH INNING

- A. Any girl playing in the outfield in the first inning shall play in the infield in the second inning.
- B. All infielders must be at least 5 feet beyond the "fair ball" arc.
- C. All outfielders must be at least 3 feet beyond the baseline.
EFFECT: Space the girls out so that they are not running into each other.

ALL GIRLS BAT ON OFFENSE IN EACH INNING

- A. The batter must wear a helmet with a chinstrap while batting. Facemasks are optional.
- B. The coach may pitch from any distance beyond the "fair ball" arc.
- C. The coach pitcher will pitch up to 4 balls to the batter. If the batter fails to hit the ball fair after 4 tries, a tee will be positioned on home plate and the batter will bat from the tee until she hits a fair ball.
- D. To keep the pace of the game, it is suggested that the coach pitcher take 4 balls to the field.
- E. There is no requirement to keep the same batting order each inning. It is common practice to use the "serpentine" method of batting- that is: bat 1 through 10 in the first inning, 10 through 1 in the second- so that the same girl does not bat last in each inning.
- F. When the last batter has hit, she will round the bases as if she "hit a home run".

NOTE: NO DEFENSIVE PLAYER IS TO LEAVE THE FIELD UNTIL THE BATTER HAS TOUCHED HOME PLATE.

BASE RUNNING

- A. A Batter and any runner on base may only advance one base on an infield hit.
- B. A Batter and any runner on base may continue advancing bases on an outfield hit. Once the ball has been returned to the infield the runners may not continue beyond the base they are attempting to reach.
- C. Once a “play” has been made, that is once an attempt to put the batter or a runner out, the ball is “dead” and no further advancing is possible.
EFFECT: Runners do not advance on an overthrow.
- D. Runners on base may not leave the base until the ball is hit. There is no “lead off.”

SCORING

There is no scorekeeping at the 6U level — all games end in a tie. Please discourage anyone from "keeping score" (yes, some parents will want to do this). Do not tell your girls, "If we were keeping score, you would have won". The basic answer when a girl asks "did we win" is to ask, "Did you have fun? If they say yes, then "the score was a tie, but anytime you have fun you are a winner". If they say no, then you need to review what you are doing.

OUTS

There are no umpires at the 6U level of play. All plays at first or second base will be called by the first base coach. Plays at third will be called by the third base coach. Any girl that is even close to safe is safe. For safety purposes, plays at Home are not allowed.

Girls that have been put out should leave the field as they would at any other level of play. There is no limit to the number of "outs" in an inning. Irrespective of the number of outs, all girls bat in each inning.

SAFETY

- A. Helmets: All batters, on deck batters, and runners will wear a helmet with a chin strap. Facemasks are optional, but recommended as they are required for upper divisions of play.
- B. Defensive Positions: Do not position any infield player closer to the batter than that particular girl can react to a hit ball.
- C. The Tee: When there is a runner on third base, it is the responsibility of the coach-catcher to remove the batting tee quickly from home plate so as not to interfere with the runner coming Home.
- D. Fair ball Arc: No defensive player is to enter the fair ball arc to retrieve a batted ball.
- E. Pitcher: There is no player-pitcher in the 6U division. All pitching is done by the coach-pitcher. You may position a player in the Pitcher's position so long as she is at least five feet beyond the Fair Ball Arc.
- F. Catcher: For safety reasons, the position of Catcher is eliminated from the 6U division. A parent or staff member will play the catcher position receiving pitches from the coach-pitcher. For this reason, plays at Home are not allowed.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- A. Managers should have a discussion before each game to voice concerns and agree on game guidelines.
EXAMPLE: If you have a girl that can really whack the ball, you should tell the other Staff so they do not have their players up too close.
- B. The visiting team will set up on the first base side and will bat first. The home team will be on the third base side and bat second.
- C. There is no “WIN at all cost” attitude when teaching the “FUNdamentals” of softball. 6U is a learning division and no score is kept or referred to by the staff. Any manager, coach or parent who becomes unruly will be asked to leave the field, as all are required to adhere to the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct and, for the team staff, the Team Staff Code of Conduct.